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COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

Legislative Session of Vrischigam 1103.

Monaay, the 27th of Vrischigam 1103. / 12th of December 1927.

The Legislative Council assembled, after its adjournment, for the second meeting of the legislative session of Vrischigam 1103, at 11-30. a. m. on the 27th of Vrischigam 1103 corresponding to the 12th of December 1927, in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, when the *ex-officio* President of the Council presided. All the Members except Messrs. Lonappan Chakkola, A. Eachara Menon, P. Kunju Muhammad Haji, Poulo Mampilli, P. Munda Vydian, C. A. Ouseph, A. R. Menon and C. Barton Wright were present.

References to the sudden demise of Sir P. Rajagopalachari.

President.—Before I proceed to the business of the day, I would seek the permission of the Hon'ble Members of this House to make a respectful reference to the sudden death of Sir P. Rajagopalachari at Bangalore on Thursday, the 16th of Vrischigam current. Those who were in close touch with Sir P. Rajagopalachari in recent times had reason to think that he was hale and hearty, and were not prepared for this sad event. Sir P. Rajagopalachari was one of Cochin's eminent Diwans, and it was my peculiar fortune to come into close contact with him in my official life as a humble servant of Cochin during the time he was Diwan of Cochin. On many an occasion, his name was referred to in this Council with great affection, esteem and regard. I do not want to dilate upon the brilliant services he rendered in Travancore and British India, and it may be truly said that he made a mark wherever his activities lay. Sir P. Rajagopalachari was remarkable in every way; his forceful personality, his capacity for understanding true worth, his wonderful gifts of organisation, his practical sympathy with the poor and depressed, and his admirable ability in convincing his opponents of the soundness of the view entertained by him are some

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of his leading virtues which earned for him the name of a distinguished administrator. I can bear personal testimony to the keen interest which Sir P. Rajagopalachari had in the deliberations of the Cochin Legislative Council and in all that pertained to the welfare and happiness of the people of Cochin. During the period he was the first nominated non-official President of the Madras Legislative Council, he played a great part and it was due to his tact and sympathy that the Madras Legislative Council attained to a state of pre-eminence during his Presidentship. It is universally acknowledged that Sir P. Rajagopalachari discharged the functions of that great office with conspicuous ability and unparalleled distinction. He was, if I may use an oft-quoted expression concerning him, an ideal President of that august body. I fully trust the Hon'ble Members will permit me to record in the proceedings of the Cochin Legislative Council our profound sorrow at his death and our sympathy with the members of his family in their sore affiction. I will now proceed with the business for the day.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—May I say a word on behalf of the non-official Members of this Council? I associate myself with you in all that you have said about Sir P. Rajagopalachari. You know, Sir, that I was very closely associated with him personally and officially for five years. The impression that he then made upon me, an impression which was only strengthened by watching his admirable success in life in other fields of labour, was that he was the brainiest man with whom I came in intimate personal contact in my life. I can give you many interesting reminiscences of his life in Cochin and elsewhere and of his personal characteristics. But I do not think that I need detain you with them at present. I should, however, like to mention one circumstance which is of topical interest at this moment.

In the last letter that I received from him about 2 months ago, he told me that he was very anxious to see how the Cochin Legislative Council functioned, and that he intended to be here to watch its proceedings from the strangers' gallery during this very session. But that expectation and the welcome which we would most enthusiastically have accorded to him to this hall, if he came here, were, alas! not destined to be fulfilled.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, on behalf of myself, my constituency and of the party, I endorse every word that has been spoken by the President and the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu. Personally, I knew him, while he was a Divisional Officer at Palghat during the year 1886 or 1888. I think that our Diwan Peishkar was one of the clerks under him. I distinctly remember him as a good Divisional Officer at Pal

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ghat, and, of course, his career is one of continuous ability and prosperity to the general public at large. With these few words, I strongly endorse the views of the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu and the Hon'ble President.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Permit me, Sir, to express my great grief in the demise of the great soul. As the representative of the Ezhuva community, I have to express our great sorrow which the whole community feels at the loss of that great philanthrophist, Sir P. Rajagopalachari. It was during his time that the backward classes of Cochin had any advancement in reality. And some of the high officials from the community came to hold office during his time, and it was due to the encouragement that he gave us which induced us to open our eyes and see our own position. And the progress that we have been able to make is also entirely due to his sympathy for the suffering communities. Both here and in Travancore he displayed remarkable ability in the administration, and he found out the latent capacities that lay in the down-trodden communities. My community feels the sorrow most keenly at the loss of that great individual, and I take this opportunity to express our heart-felt grievance in the matter.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Sir, on behalf of the Members of the Cochin public service, on behalf of those officers who served under the late Sir P. Rajagopalachari, of whom there are at least a few to day, I beg your permission to associate myself with all that has been uttered by you, by his own Secretary, Mr. C. Achyuta Menon, and Dr. A. G. Menon.

I do not wish to add anything to the eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased by the previous speeches, but one expression that he used to tell me at all times I feel it my duty to mention here, and that is, "Cochin has been my first love." He always used to say whenever he met me or any Cochinite, "though I served in Travancore, though I served in British India, though I served in England, I remember my old Cochin; Cochin has been my first love; I love Cochin; I love everything in Cochin; I love every Cochinite." And he was looking forward to be present here during this session. His idea was to leave Europe early in October last, arrive at Quilon, spend a few days there and come over to our State, to Ernakulam first and live in Krishna Vilas—he never liked to call it Krishna Vilas, he used to call it *Eswara-Seva-Madhom*; be the guest of his old friend who is now the Diwan of Cochin and stay there, pay his respects to His Highness the Maharaja, attend a full session of our Council, to see how we are all doing in Cochin.

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He even gave instructions for the journey from Quilon to Alleppey, to arrange for him a comfortable motor boat to take him to Alleppey, remain there a few days, and see his old friends. He wanted to be here and perhaps to stay here for a week and then to go to Trichur, then to Cheruvirutti, and spend a day there in the old palace where he had spent many days when he was our Diwan. He wished to spend at Cochin one full month, that is, the whole of December. But the will of God has been otherwise. When the heart is full, words cannot come out of the mouth. If there was a great soul in recent years that loved Cochin really, that loved Cochin people, of course, it is that great man, one of the great men of India, a God's good man, Diwan Bahadur Perungavur Rajagopalachari, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., M. A., & B. L. Let us all pray God that the soul of this great man will rest in peace!

Mr. K. Raman Menon.—On behalf of the people of Cochin, I may be permitted to say a few words The name of Sir P. Rajagopalachari is a household word. With him began the great art of progress in this country. He did pioneer work in improving the administration of this country. His name, like the names of Diwan Mr. Sankunni Menon and Diwan Sankara Wariar, is spoken of and remembered with gratitude, love and affection by every person even of the present generation in Cochin. So his loss is a great loss to this country because, as now stated, his great love for the country is ever present, and his loss is great to Cochin. So I support every word of what is spoken of of the great deceased statesman.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—On behalf of the Jewish constituency which I have the honour to represent here, I wish to first associate myself with the deep sense of sorrow and grief at the death of Sir P. Rajagopalachari, and to say a few personal words. I owe my entire career to the great soul of Sir P. Rajagopalachari. Twenty-seven years ago, I approached him as a forelorn boy just come out of the Ernakulam College on his way to Madras, and stepped at Krishna Vilas, at the *Eswara-Seva-Madham* as it was then called, and met Sir P. Rajagopalachari, Diwan of Cochin, as the Jewish student. Sir, great administrator and statesman that he was, he did not stand on red-tapism when heart-felt matters were brought to him. I told him 'Sir, I stand in need of education, I have no money to study' and the great soul in 3 hours' time was able to get the now Diwan Peishkar issue a memorandum, which I preserve as a heirloom to be handed down to posterity, of giving me the grant of a liberal scholarship to pursue my study in the

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Presidency College at Madras. My heart is full of gratitude to him. I have always cherished his name while he was alive, and I owe him many acts of kindness, everything, at his hands, and I wish to only add that his great ideas with which he guided the Legislative Council of Madras will permeate here, and those great ideas of his will move us also in the march of progress in Cochin. With these few words I also pay my humble tribute to the great soul.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—On behalf of the landlords of Cochin, I also request you to permit me to place our deep regret at the death of Sir P. Rajagopalachari. There was an attempt to confiscate landlords' rights in 1076. But Sir P. Rajagopalachari said 'we shall improve the relations between landlord and tenant but not by confiscation' and the matter was left there. My constituency feel it a great loss to them—the death of Sir P. Rajagopalachari, who has been of a very great help to them both outside and inside Cochin in their struggles.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Damages due to floods in Pallur, etc., Villages.

21. മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ശങ്കരൻ നമ്പൂതിരി.—(a) ജലപ്രളയം നിമിത്തം പല്ലൂർ, ദേശമംഗലം, നെടുമ്പുര, ചെറുതുരുത്തി, പൈങ്കുളം, മായന്നൂർ ഈ വില്ലേജുകളിൽ മണൽ വീണ് തരിശായികിടന്നിരുന്ന ഭൂമികളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴും തരിശായി കിടക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികൾ എത്ര എന്നും,

സർക്കാരുചിലവിന്മേൽ കേടുതീർത്തു കൊടുത്ത ഭൂമികൾ എത്ര എന്നും,

സ്വന്തം ചിലവിന്മേൽ കേടു തീർത്തു കൃഷി ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന ഭൂമികൾ എത്ര എന്നും,

ഭൂമികൾ നന്നാക്കുവാൻ കൃഷിവായ്പയായൊ മറുവിധത്തിലൊ സർക്കാരുവല്ലകടവും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ എത്ര കൊല്ലം ആണെന്നും ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും കൊടുത്ത സംഖ്യ എത്രയെന്നും അറിയിക്കുവിധം ഒരു കണക്കു മേശപ്പുറത്തു വെയ്ക്കുവാനും,

(b) മേൽപറഞ്ഞ വില്ലേജുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴും തരിശായികിടക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികളുടെ രക്ഷക്കായി വല്ല സഹായവും ചെയ്യാൻ സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടൊ എന്നുള്ള വിവരം സഭയെ അറിയിക്കാനും സർക്കാരിന്റെ ദയവുണ്ടാകുമൊ?

റാവു സാഹിബ് മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. വി. കസ്തൂരിരങ്കയ്യർ.—

		ഏക്ര.	സെന്റ.
(a)	പല്ലൂർ	൧൦	൦൬
	ദേശമംഗലം	൦	൫൦
	നെടുമ്പുര	൦	൯൫
	ചെറുതുരുത്തി	൫൨	൯൫

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